

**Listing of Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows. This Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in this application:

5     **Claims**

1. – 30.           (Canceled)

31. (New)       A stabiliser for attachment to a ladder or step ladder which comprises two stile members with rungs between them, said stabiliser comprising:

10           (i) a stabiliser arm having an attached end and a foot end;

             (ii) an attachment element which attaches the stabiliser arm to a stile member of a ladder or step ladder, which attachment element includes a primary hinge having a primary hinge axis such that when the primary hinge is in use, the primary hinge axis is at an angle to an elongate axis of the stile member to which it is attached so  
15       that the stabiliser arm can be swung outwardly and rearwardly from the stile member;  
and,

             (iii) a locking element for locking the stabiliser arm in an open position;  
the arrangement of the several elements being such that when the stabiliser arm is attached to a stile member of a ladder and the primary hinge is in a closed position,  
20       the stabiliser arm is located along the stile member of the ladder to which it is attached, and when the primary hinge is being opened the foot end of the stabiliser arm moves outward from the stile member along an arcuate path.

32. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in claim 31 in which the attachment element further comprises:

a main plate; and

5 means for attaching the main plate to a stile member of a ladder.

33. (New) A stabiliser system for a ladder or step ladder comprising a stabiliser as claimed in claim 32 and further including spacer blocks which, in use, fit between the main plate and the stile member of the ladder.

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34. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in claim 32 in which the primary hinge axis is parallel to a plane defined by the main plate.

35. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 31 in which the primary  
15 hinge axis is angled out from the stile member so that in use the primary hinge axis is at an angle to an outer face of the stile member to which it is connected forming a compound angle with the stile member.

36. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 31 further comprising stops  
20 for limiting movement of the primary hinge.

37. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 31 in which the primary hinge can rotate between set positions of 70 to 170 degrees relative to the stile member.

38. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 32 further including a load transfer and locating element located on the main plate.

39. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in claim 38 in which the load transfer and locating element comprises at least one flange on the main plate against which the end of the primary hinge bears when the stabiliser arm is deployed.

40. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in claim 32 in which the locking element can lock the stabiliser arm against the main plate.

41. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in claim 40 in which the locking element comprises a bolt on the main plate which mates with a hole or slot in an end of the stabiliser arm.

42. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 31 wherein the locking element can lock the primary hinge in a fully open or fully closed position and also in at least one intermediate position therebetween.

43. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 42 in which the locking element comprises a member selected from a spring loaded plunger and a rotating cam device located on the main plate and engaging with notches, holes or cut-outs in a hinge block that is attached to the stabiliser arm.

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44. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 31 in which, when the primary hinge is in a fully open position, a hinge block attached to the stabiliser arm engages against a stop attached to the stile member or main plate, which stop can be in line with the main plate or can be part of the main plate.

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45. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 31 further comprising a hinge block rigidly attached to the stabiliser arm.

46. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 31 in which the primary hinge is attached to the stabiliser arm through a secondary hinge having a secondary hinge axis, wherein the secondary hinge axis is at an angle to the hinge axis of the primary hinge in the same plane.

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47. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in claim 46 in which the secondary hinge axis is at an angle to the primary hinge axis in a plane which is at an angle to a plane including the primary hinge axis.

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48. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 47 in which the load transfer and locating element comprises a recess formed on the main plate with at least three defined sides such that the recess locates and holds an end of the stabiliser arm in position against the main plate when the stabiliser arm is deployed.

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49. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 31 further comprising a stay member wherein said stay member is a folding stay, one end of which is pivotally attached to the stabiliser arm at a distance spaced apart from the primary hinge and the other end of which is attachable to the stile member at a distance spaced apart from the attachment position of the primary hinge.

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50. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 49 in which, when the stabiliser arm is attached to the stile member and the stay member is connected to the stile member a distance above the attachment position of the primary hinge and the primary hinge is in the open position, the stabiliser arm is located outwardly and rearwardly from the stile member and the stay member locks and locates the stabiliser arm in position.

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51. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 49 in which the folding stay includes a length adjusting feature which can adjust the length of the stay and, when in the closed position, the stay folds up within the raised stabiliser arm.

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52. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 51 in which the length  
adjusting feature comprises a ratchet element.

53. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 52 further including a flexible  
5 tie adjacent to the end of the stabiliser arm remote from the primary hinge, wherein  
the tie is attachable to the stile member.

54. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 31 further comprising a stay  
member pivotally attached to the stabilizer arm wherein main longitudinal  
10 components of the stabiliser are constructed of extruded and hollow sections, and  
further wherein there are solid inserts in box sections at a hinge end of the stay  
member to provide support for the attachment of the hinges and other fittings.

55. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 31 in which, on the lower end  
15 of the stabiliser arm, is mounted a foot component that allows movement in two  
directions

56. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 31 in which the length of the  
stabiliser arm is adjustable.

57. (New) A stabiliser as claimed in Claim 31 further comprising a clip which can hold the arms in the inoperative position against the stile member for storage and transport of the ladder or step ladder.

5 58. (New) A stabiliser for a ladder having a foot portion, said ladder comprising a first stile and a second stile with rungs extending therebetween, and said stabiliser comprising an arm having a first stabiliser end mountable on said first stile and a second stabiliser end adapted to bear on the ground, said arm when mounted on the said first stile being moveable between a first stowed position in  
10 which it extends substantially parallel to said first stile to an operative position in which, in use, said second stabiliser end bears on the ground to one side and behind the foot portion of said ladder, characterised in that said first stabiliser end is mountable to said first stile via a hinge pin which can be attached to said first stile and is permanently inclined to a longitudinal axis of said stile.

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59. (New) In combination, a ladder having a foot portion and a stabiliser therfor, said ladder comprising a first stile and a second stile with rungs extending therebetween, and said stabiliser comprising an arm having a first stabiliser end mounted on said first stile and a second stabiliser end adapted to bear on the ground,  
20 said arm being moveable between a first stowed position in which it extends substantially parallel to said first stile to an operative position in which, in use, said second stabiliser end bears on the ground to one side and behind the foot portion of

said ladder, characterised in that said first stabiliser end is mounted to said first stile via a hinge pin which is mounted on said first stile and is permanently inclined to a longitudinal axis of said stile.

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